Chief Minister indicating that a commitment of 0.4 MMCMD of gas had already been made to APSEB. It was also indicated that the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh would be taken into consideration while finalising the future gas utilisation plans in the K.G. Basin.

Production of PTA by M/s. Reliance Industries Limited

1426. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Reliance Industries have obtained a licence for the manufacture of PTA, a raw material used in polyester industry;

(b) how many other concerns have been permitted to manufacture PTA;

(c) what norms are applied for regulating the prices of PTA;

(d) whether it is a fact that M/s. Reliance Industries have recently increased the price of PTA; and

(e) if so, whether this has been done with the permission of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) and (b) An Industrial licence has been granted to M/s. Reliance Industries Limited on 31-12-1985 for the manufacture of 1,00,000 TPA of Purified Terepthalic Acid. At present, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited is the only producer of PTA in the country. Letters of intent have already been granted to M|s. Madras Refineries Limited (a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas) and M/s. JK Synthetics Limited for manufacture of 1,50,000 TPA of Purified Terepthalic Acid each at Manali, Madras, in the State of Tamil Nadu and at Salempur in District Aligarh, in tht State of Uttar Pradesh respectively.

(c) to (e) At present, there is no statutory price control over Purified Terepthalic Acid.

The present selling price of PTA by M/s. RIL is Rs. 37,150/tonne (ex-factory). Since there is no statutory price control, the question of permission of Government does not arise.

Oil exploration work in the off-shore areas

1427. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has suggested to the Shipping Corporation of India to start a joint venture to combine the expertise of the two organisations to intensify oil exploration work in the off-shore areas; and

(b) whether any details of the joint venture have been worked out and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) In order to shed low and medium techuological areas and to concentrate on their main line of business, ONGC have a proposal to divest their fleet of offshore supply vessels, partly by sale and partly by forming a joint venture company with Shipping Corporation of India for managing|operation of these vessels. No final decision has been taken so far.

Price control on sex harmone drugs

1428. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kelkar Committee recommended all sex harmone

drugs for price decontrol on the ground that these are used for family welfare programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that market sale of each brand of these drugs have an annual sales turnover between one crore to five crores.

(c) whether Kelkar Committee sought clarification from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in regard to the use of these drugs for family welfare programme;

(d) if so, when and if not, on what basis the conclusion was arrived at;

(e) whether his Ministry examined this conclusion of the report; and

(f) if so, what is their analysis and what action has been taken on that basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) The Kelkar Committee in its supplementary Report had mentioned Hydroxyprogestrone (a sex harmone) as one of the 11 drugs which may be considered for possible inclusion in the Second Schedule.

(b) Sales turnover of formulations is not monitored.

(c) There is no such reference in the Supplementary Report of the Kelkar Committee.

(d) to (f) The recommendation of the Kelkar Committee for inclusion of some drugs under price control is under active examination of the Government.

Performance of Plant Load Factor by BHEL thermal units

1429. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BHEL thermal units have sustained the targets set; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether this low target was set by BHEL in consultation with Government;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the performance of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 56.9 per cent achieved by BHEL units as against all-India perfomance of 56.2 per cent;

(d) whether BHEL have any plan to achieve average of 78.1 per cent PLF as achieved by the Singrauli units and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether PLF of any such imported thermal units is better than that achieved by BHEL units and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) During 1988-89, thermal sets supplied by BHEL generated 1,17,047 million units against the target of 1,15,446 million units. In 1989-90 (April-June), these sets generated 31,270 million units against the target of 30,097 million units. In both the cases, the Plant Load Factor was 56.9 per cent.

(b) These targets have been fixed by the Central Electricity Authority in consultation with various State Electricity Boards/Organisations and BHEL.

(c) Though the average Plant Load Factor of BHEL units is better than the national average, efforts are being made to improve the same further.

(d) BHEL is not involved in the actual generation of power by the utilities. Based on the feed-back about performance, BHEL takes steps for improvement in design and manufacture of its equipment.

(e) The design and quality of the set are two among several factors which decide the PLF. Some of the thermal sets supplied by BHEL have been giving excellent performance. In some cases, the performance of BHEL sets is better than that of comparable imported sets as in the case of Singrauli, Korba, Tuticorin and Vijayawada.